REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 52-60 and 62 were objected to. In view of the objection, claims 52-60 and 62 have been amended.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 57 and 58 were objected to. Claims 57 and 58 were amended in the preliminary amended on July 25, 2005.

In paragraph 4 of the Action, claims 58, 60, 64 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The dot form is explained for example at paragraph 0205 and Figs. 18a-18c.

In paragraphs 5-7 of the Action, claims 1-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by Dereume and Edwin. In view of the rejections, independent claims 1, 15, 25, 32, 52, 54 and 63 have been amended to obviate the rejections, and claims 22 and 41 have been canceled. Claim 78 has been added. Other claims have been editorially amended.

In claim 1, a stent comprises a tubular stent matrix of which diameter is extendable and flexible solid polymer layers coated on the stent matrix. The polymer layers are closely attached to and cover an entire surface of the stent matrix. The polymer layers include a plurality of fine through pores formed, after formation of the polymer layers, at portions where the stent matrix does not exist.

In the invention, the polymer layers or films are smooth surfaces, to which a plurality of fine pores or through pores is formed. In this respect, the fine pores are not formed at portion where the stent matrix exists, so that the stent matrix does not expose outside.

In the invention, since the stent matrix is entirely covered by the polymer layers or films, the outer and inner surfaces are

smooth. Thus, when the stent is disposed inside the blood vessel, blood can flow smoothly.

In the invention, since the fine through pores are formed at the portions where the stent matrix does not exist, when the stent is disposed in the blood vessel, cells can easily glow and attach to the stent.

In the method of producing the stent, after forming the inner and outer polymer layers or films, a plurality of the fine through pores is perforated at portions where the stent matrix does not exist. In the invention, the stent matrix can be entirely covered by the polymer layers or films, and the fine pores can be formed.

In Dereume et al. cited in the Action, a luminal graft comprises a tubular support 22, a cover 23 and a liner 24. The cover 23 and liner 24 are explained at column 4, lines 29-48, wherein it is disclosed that the cover 23 and liner 24 include electrostatically spun fibers having a typical pore size between about 3 microns and about 20 microns.

Since the spun fibers are included in the cover 23 and the liner 24, the cover 23 and the liner 24 include random pores. Thus, the support 22 is not completely covered by the cover 23 and the liner 24. Namely, the support must have portions not covered by the cover 23 and liner 24.

In the invention, the stent matrix is entirely covered by the polymer layers or films, and the fine through pores are formed at the portions where the stent matrix does not exist. In the invention, the fine pores penetrating the stent surely exist. However, in Dereume et al., since the cover 23 and the liner 24 formed by a material with pores cover the support 22, through pores penetrating the cover 23 and the liner 24 may not be formed.

In the invention, since the through pores are penetrated after the polymer layers or films are formed on the stent matrix, the through pores are surely formed at the required portions.

Therefore, Dereume et al. does not disclose or even suggest the stent and the method of the invention.

In Edwin, a vascular graft includes a first layer of biocompatible flexible material, a second layer of biocompatible flexible material and a support layer sandwiched between the first and second layers. Namely, a stent 30 is sandwiched between two tubular members, which are connected together by dotted lines 54.

In the invention, the polymer layers covering the stent matrix include a plurality of fine through pores formed, after formation of the polymer layers, at portions where the stent matrix does not exist.

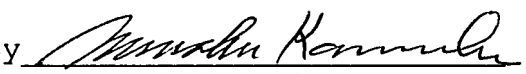
In Edwin, no through holes are formed in the stent. Although laser is used in Edwin, the laser is used for forming adhesive pattern, not used to form the holes. Therefore, Edwin does not disclose the features of the invention.

As explained above, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Even if the cited references are combined, claims of the application are not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Two month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of $460.00 is attached herewith for the two month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 

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